REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-7, 9, and 14-16 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the examiner for the examiner interview held on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 between the undersigned attorney and the examiner. The filing dates between the reference and the present patent application was discussed. The examiner agreed that the reference does not apply because the present patent application has a filing date before that of the reference. The examiner asked the Applicants to file a response to the Office Action regarding this matter. No other issues were discussed.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation; Claims 5-7, 9, and 14-16

Quotrano is a continuation application, filed originally on July 6, 1999. However, the foreign priority date of the present application is June 16, 1999, which is before the original filing date of Qutrano. Therefore, the reference does not meet the requirements of a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5-7, 9, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

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III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Quatrano and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: April 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

himabuku_

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